

Stimulus News You Can Use

WSDOT's informal biweekly update about the
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act)

Wednesday, January 20, 2010



The stimulus story this week

WSDOT and local governments continue to advance projects before the March 2 deadline to obligate all stimulus funds. This week nine more projects were certified for stimulus funds. The state has obligated \$419.4 million, or 85% of the \$492 million. Washington continues to provide detailed accountability for project delivery under the Recovery Act, submitting a major quarterly accountability report to the Office of Management and Budget on January 15 and a monthly update to a congressional committee on January 20.

This week by the numbers (project dollars in millions):

<i>Individual highway projects</i>	State	Local	Total	Notes
Total funds	\$340	\$152	\$492	
Obligated funds¹	\$273.4 (79%)	\$146 (96%)	\$419.4 (85%)	Funds FHWA approved All funds must be obligated by March 2, 2010
Projects certified²	48 (100%)	158 (100%)	206 (100%)	Nine new projects certified on January 14
Projects obligated	39 (81%)	151 (96%)	190 (92%)	FHWA has approved some or all funds for the projects
Project delivery to date				
Operationally complete	20 (42%)	69 (44%)	89 (43%)	Four new projects reported complete this edition
Awarded/under way³	34 (71%)	140 (89%)	174 (84%)	Includes completed projects
Advertised	37 (77%)	146 (92%)	183 (89%)	Includes completed and awarded projects
Certified, awaiting advertisement	10 (21%)	12 (8 %)	22 (11%)	These projects, including several receiving surplus funds, are planned for upcoming advertisement
Detail: Safety funding buckets (\$12 stimulus)	Rumble strips	Cable median barrier	Total	Notes
Completed	15	2	17	Includes only state Recovery Act funds
Awarded	17	7	24	Includes completed projects
Advertised	26	7	33	Includes completed and awarded projects
Transit projects	Large urban	Small urban	Nonurban/rural	State total/Notes
Percent of total \$179 awarded	97%	97%	100%	98%
Number of transit projects obligated	33 of 35	18 of 19	20 of 20	52 of 55 FTA counts all rural projects as one project

November employment	State	Local	Total	Notes
Payroll	\$2.2	\$4.5	\$6.7 for November	Cumulatively, \$46.6 million to date Average wage is \$37/hour
Hours	48,798	120,157	168,955 for November	Employees have worked 1,230,055 hours to date
FTEs	282	695	977 for November	FTE = 173 hours per month
Individuals paid in part or total with stimulus funds	1,106	3,588	4,694 for November	Note: Not a count of unique employees.
¹ \$4M in state enhancement funds provided to locals. While WSDOT controls \$340M, the total for obligation authority is \$344M, which is the basis of the percentages in this table, and basis for USDOT Review on 3/02/10. ² This includes one state project that will no longer be funded with Recovery Act funds and is planned for decertification. ³ This includes one state project that has stimulus funding authorized for pre-construction and is currently under way.				

Key issues: State

- **Washington prepares for March 2 obligation target** – WSDOT and local governments have obligated \$419.4 million of \$492 million in Recovery Act highway funds. An obligation is a commitment—the Federal government’s promise to pay the State for the Federal share of a project’s eligible cost. This commitment occurs when the project is approved and the project agreement is executed. States must obligate 100% of Recovery Act funds by March 2 or lose funds to other states that meet the requirement. Due to low successful bids, stimulus projects are averaging well under their anticipated budgets. The surplus funds have allowed WSDOT and local governments to add more projects. The following steps in January and February will put WSDOT on track to meet the March 2 100% obligation requirement.

Planned state obligations

- SR 433/Lewis and Clark Bridge Painter – (February 1 advertisement)
Approximately \$11.5 million additional obligation planned
- I-90/Lake Easton to Big Creek Br EB – Concrete (February 1 advertisement)
Approximately \$17.9 million additional obligation planned
- US 97/S of Chelan Falls – Add Passing Lane (February 22 advertisement) \$1.4 million additional obligation planned
- Seven remaining cable barrier projects (February 16 and March 1 advertisements) \$3 million obligation planned for construction
- An additional obligation of \$0.45 million on the I-5/North Kelso to Castle Rock Stage 2 – Concrete project
- The seven [Tier 3](#) projects (February 8, February 22, and March 1 advertisements) \$12.3 million obligation planned
- A \$26.8 million transfer to I-405 Braided Ramps (Transfer planned in January)

Planned local obligations:

- Port of Pasco - Intermodal Rail Project Phase 5, (February obligation) \$0.22 million planned
 - Bellingham – Bakerview & Hannegan/Woburn, (February obligation) \$1.3 million planned
 - Rockford – First Street/Emma Street Sidewalks, (February obligation) \$0.5 million planned
 - Cheney – Spangle Road Phase 2, (February obligation) \$0.1 million planned
 - Battle Ground – Arterial Overlay, (February obligation) \$0.4 million planned
 - Camas – Leadbetter Drive, (January obligation) \$0.6 million planned
 - Clark Co – Arterial Overlay, (February obligation) \$0.7 million planned
 - Vancouver – 2010 Arterial Resurfacing, (February obligation) \$2.5 million planned
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- **Nine more Recovery Act projects certified** – On January 14, Gov. Gregoire certified nine additional projects to receive Federal Highway Administration stimulus funds. The eight state projects and one local project are receiving surplus Recovery Act funds due to low bids on earlier projects. Due to obligation timelines, one local project will no longer receive Recovery Act funds.
 - WSDOT: US 195/Idaho State Line to Colton – Paving
 - WSDOT: US 97/South of Chelan Falls – Passing Lane
 - WSDOT: US 97/Orondo Northward – Paving – Chip Seal
 - WSDOT: US 97/Okanogan to Riverside – Chip Seal
 - WSDOT: US 97/Pateros South – Chip Seal
 - WSDOT: SR 26/Royal City East – Chip Seal
 - WSDOT: SR 14/I-5 to SE 164th Interchange – Paving
 - WSDOT: SR 503/1 Mile E of Rock Creek Br to Fredrickson Rd - Paving
 - Bellingham: Bakerview & Hannegan/Woburn
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- **WSDOT awarded Tier 2 project on I-5 near Kelso** – On January 14, WSDOT awarded the second tier Recovery Act contract for the I-5, North Kelso to Harrison Avenue – Paving and Safety project to Kerr Contractors, Inc. of Woodburn, Ore, with a low successful bid of \$6.1 million. The project will pave approximately six miles of I-5 southbound to extend the life of the roadway, reduce maintenance costs and provide motorists with a safer, smoother drive. Construction is expected to begin in February and be complete in late summer 2010.
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- **Four additional local projects completed** –
 - [Tulalip Tribe – 116th/34th Ave NE Fish passage Culvert](#)
 - [Forks – Bogachiel Way](#)
 - [Tenino – Sussex Avenue Street Illumination](#)
 - [Lacey – Woodland Trail](#)

- **Three local projects Recovery Projects awarded –**
 - [Snohomish County – 84th Street Overlay](#)
 - [Thurston County – Prairie Creek Bridge](#)
 - [Thurston County – Old Hwy 99 Left Turn Lane](#)
- **Two new Tier 2 projects advertised –** One state and one local project receiving surplus stimulus funds due to low bids on other projects were recently advertised.
 - WSDOT advertised I-82/Granger to W Grandview EB – Dowel Bar Retrofit and Concrete Rehab on January 19.
 - Anacortes advertised the [6th Street Reconstruction](#) project on January 13.
- **Washington submitted Recovery Act accountability report –** WSDOT submitted a quarterly report to the Office of Management and Budget on January 15. The report covered highway, transit, and ferry projects for the quarter ending December 31, 2009. On January 30, the federal www.Recovery.gov webpage will publish the new data on all stimulus projects. WSDOT will continue reviewing and updating data through January 22. The next report is due in April.
 - WSDOT submitted a companion report to the Governor's Office of Financial Management on January 15. Visit www.recovery.wa.gov, for more information on state Recovery Act accountability.

Key issues: National

- **White House Council of Economic Advisers released new Recovery Act report –** The [January 13 quarterly report](#) estimated the stimulus raised employment by preserving or creating between 1.5 million to 2 million jobs. The report was the council's second update on the economic impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
- **Over 10,000 FHWA projects approved; \$15 billion in projects under way –** The Federal Highway Administration has obligated almost \$23.2 billion to 10,663 projects as of January 15, or 87% of \$26.8 billion in Recovery Act highway funds. Of those projects, 6,584 costing \$15.6 billion are under way, and almost \$5.6 billion has been spent as of January 15.
- **House T & I Committee plans one year progress report hearing on Recovery Act–** On February 10, the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will hold a hearing to review the one-year progress report on Recovery Act transportation and infrastructure investments. It will be the full committee's sixth review of stimulus project performance since the Recovery Act was signed into law in February 2009.

Stimulus project of the week

Recovery Act funds fuel HOV lane construction in Pierce County

Highway work crews crowd a three-mile-long, 26-foot-wide strip of land separating north and south I-5 in Fife. They are excavating, drilling, grading, digging, laying pipe, building concrete forms and tying rebar for bridges and barrier.

Last spring, the [I-5 Port of Tacoma Road to King County Line – Add HOV Lanes](#) project was selected as a critical shovel-ready project, receiving \$35.3 million from the 2009 [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act](#) (ARRA). The ARRA funds are being used to pay for construction, which supports an estimated 130 jobs. In addition to work forces from Bellevue-based prime contractor Tri-State Construction, Inc., workers from 15 to 20 subcontractors are on the job every week. As many as 50 skilled tradesmen and laborers have been hired for the project.



“It’s good to see so many crews out here working in the winter months,” said WSDOT Project Engineer Rumina Suafoa. “They’re making good progress despite rain and cold temperatures.” Looking ahead six months, Suafoa expects a 25 percent increase in the contractor work force on the job. Construction jobs typically ramp up in the spring and summer months as contractors take advantage of better weather and more daylight hours.

Construction started in mid-August 2009 and is 20 percent complete overall. Median-widening work is on pace to be finished in the spring. Once complete, both directions of mainline I-5 traffic will shift toward the median, giving crews room to work on the highway shoulders. Shoulder work includes installing drainage and lighting, constructing traffic barrier and retaining walls, and widening on-ramps. The project is scheduled to be open to traffic in late 2011.

The I-5 Port of Tacoma Road to King County Line – Add HOV Lanes project widens I-5 to accommodate three miles of HOV lanes in each direction south of the Pierce/King County line. The project is part of the [Tacoma/Pierce County HOV Program](#), a series of highway projects that provide operational improvements and HOV lanes on I-5, SR 167, and SR 512.

Important dates

- **January 30:** Latest Recovery Act data will be published at www.Recovery.gov
- **February 10:** House T & I Committee holds next Recovery Act hearing
- **February 17:** Deadline for the U.S. Department of Transportation to announce TIGER grants and High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail awards
- **February 20:** Next performance report due to House T & I Committee
- **March 2:** Deadline for obligating federal highway funds
- **April 10:** Third quarterly performance report due to OMB

Websites of interest

- WSDOT Recovery Act website: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/funding/stimulus>
- Washington Recovery Act website: <http://www.recovery.wa.gov/>
- Federal Recovery Act website: <http://www.recovery.gov/>
- FHWA recovery site: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/economicrecovery/index.htm>
- Federal Transit Administration recovery site: http://www.fta.dot.gov/index_9440.html
- Federal Rail Administration recovery site: <http://www.fra.dot.gov/us/content/2153>
- Federal Aviation Administration recovery site: <http://www.faa.gov/recovery>
- OMB recovery website: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/recovery_default/